CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. A method for communicating data from a plurality of data sources to a plurality of data targets in a data processing system having a plurality of connection mechanisms for establishing logical connections between data sources and data targets, the method comprising:

selecting one of a plurality of applications associated with a first data source, wherein each of the plurality of data source applications has a plurality of data elements;

selecting one of a plurality of applications associated with a data target, wherein each of the plurality of data target applications has a plurality of data entry fields;

mapping a data element from the first data source to a data entry field using a drag-and-drop operation; and

automatically associating a data element on a second data source corresponding to the mapped data element with the data entry field of the selected data target application.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising copying a value stored in a data entry field to a data element associated with the second data source, provided the value stored in the data entry field has been mapped to the data element.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein mapping further comprises mapping a data element to a plurality of data entry fields, wherein the data element from the

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second data source is automatically associated with the plurality of data entry fields of the selected data target application.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein mapping further comprises generating a script that reads data from the first data source, transforms the data, and writes the transformed data to the data entry field when a previous mapping from the first data source to the selected data target application has been performed.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the script writes the transformed data to an output file when a previous mapping from the first data source to the selected data target application has not been performed.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the first data source is a smart card.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the data target is a Microsoft Windows™-based application.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein mapping further comprises storing data elements of the second data source in an output file when a previous mapping from the first data source to the selected data target application has not been performed.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein mapping further comprises storing data elements of the second data source in an output file.

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10. A method for communicating data from a plurality of data sources to a plurality of data targets in a data processing system having a plurality of connection mechanisms for establishing logical connections between data sources and data targets, the method comprising:

reading data from a data source;

if the read data has been mapped to a data entry field associated with a data target application using a drag-and-drop operation, associating the read data with the data entry field; and

if the read data has not been mapped to a data entry field associated with a data target application using a drag-and-drop operation, storing the read data in an output file.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein associating further comprises associating the read data with a plurality of data entry fields corresponding to the data target application.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the data source is a smart card.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the output file is a text file.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the output file is a hypertext markup language file.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein the data target application is a Microsoft Windows™-based application.

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16. A computer-readable medium containing instructions executable by a computer for communicating data from a plurality of data sources to a plurality of data targets in a data processing system having a plurality of connection mechanisms for establishing logical connections between data sources and data targets, the method comprising:

selecting one of a plurality of applications associated with a first data source, wherein each of the plurality of data source applications has a plurality of data elements;

selecting one of a plurality of applications associated with a data target, wherein each of the plurality of data target applications has a plurality of data entry fields;

mapping a data element from the first data source to a data entry field using a drag-and-drop operation; and

automatically associating a data element on a second data source corresponding to the mapped data element with the data entry field of the selected data target application.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, further comprising copying a value stored in a data entry field to a data element associated with the second data source, provided the value stored in the data entry field has been mapped to the data element.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein mapping further comprises mapping a data element to a plurality of data entry fields, wherein the

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data element from the second data source is automatically associated with the plurality of data entry fields of the selected data target application.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein mapping further comprises generating a script, that reads data from the first data source, transforms the data, and writes the transformed data to the data entry field when a previous mapping from the first data source to the selected data target application has been performed.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the script writes the data to an output file when a previous mapping from the first data source to the selected data target application has not been performed.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the first data source is a smart card.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the data target is a Microsoft Windows™-based application.

23. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein mapping further comprises storing data elements of the second data source in an output file when a previous mapping from the first data source to the selected data target application has not been performed.

24. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein mapping further comprises storing data elements of the second data source in an output file.

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25. A computer-readable medium containing instructions executable by a computer for communicating data from a plurality of data sources to a plurality of data targets in a data processing system having a plurality of connection mechanisms for establishing logical connections between data sources and data targets, the method comprising:

reading data from a data source;

if the read data has been mapped to a data entry field associated with a data target application using a drag-and-drop operation, associating the read data with the data entry field; and

if the read data has not been mapped to a data entry field associated with a data target application using a drag-and-drop operation, storing the read data in an output file.

26. The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein associating further comprises associating the read data with a plurality of data entry fields associated with the data target application.

27. The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the data source is a smart card.

28. The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the output file is a text file.

29. The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the output file is a hypertext markup language file.

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30. The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the data target application is a Microsoft Windows™-based application.

31. An apparatus for communicating data from a plurality of data sources to a plurality of data targets in a data processing system having a plurality of connection mechanisms for establishing logical connections between data sources and data targets, comprising:

means for reading data from a data source;

means for associating the read data with a data entry field associated with a data target application using a drag-and-drop operation, if the read data has been mapped to a data entry field; and

means for storing the read data in an output file, if the read data has not been mapped to a data entry field associated with a data target application using a drag-and-drop operation.

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